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PA 911

# FOOD STAMPS TO END HUNGER

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • CONSUMER AND MARKETING SERVICE



## What it is . . .

During a period of great economic well-being, with farmers producing enough food for everyone in this country to eat well, many Americans have incomes too small to meet minimum food needs.

The Food Stamp Program, administered nationally by the Consumer and Marketing Service (C&MS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, helps to get more food to low income families in the United States.

The program is an effective way of safeguarding the health of the Nation's low income families through better nutrition, while increasing the flow of food from its farms through normal market channels. It also helps boost the economy of areas where it's in operation.

ST-3445-19



## Who is eligible . . .

Families and individuals who are determined by State welfare agencies to be in need of food help may choose to take part in the Food Stamp Program. Generally, those getting some type of public or general assistance under a State's welfare program are eligible, as long as they are living in a household and prepare food for home

## Where it's needed . . .

Following a three-year test of the food stamp method in a number of pilot areas, the Food Stamp Act of 1964 gave it a permanent and increasingly significant role in efforts to improve the Nation's nutritional well-being.

The Food Stamp Program has expanded continually and methodically into principal cities and rural areas that wanted it, requested it through their State welfare agencies, paid local administrative costs of certifying eligible people, and handled the issuance and accounting of Federal food coupons ("food stamps"). C&MS has direct responsibility for authorizing food retailers and wholesalers to take part in the program.

ST-2366-2

consumption. Other families may also be eligible if their income does not exceed stated amounts. The income limits are worked out by the State and approved by USDA. They must be in line with standards used by the State in its own welfare programs.



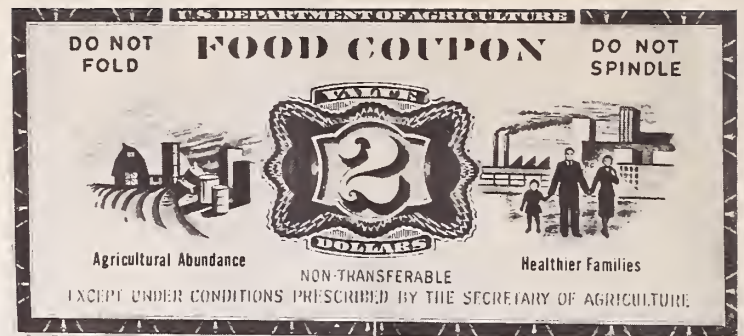


*A food stamp applicant is authorized to take part in the Food Stamp Program (Top photo ST-3446-7). After being found eligible, he presents his authorization card and cash for stamps at the food stamp issuance office (ST-3446-16). He pays for his food with food stamps (ST-3935-19).*



*Through the Food Stamp Program this family enjoys more nutritious and tasty foods at mealtime (ST-3935-4).*





*These are reproductions of the food stamp coupons, issued in denominations of 50 cents and two dollars. No change in cash may be given for coupons. If an amount less than 50 cents is required, the shopper decides whether to pay it in cash or use a 50 cent coupon and accept a credit slip for the difference to be used for future purchases of eligible items (BN-16424).*

Once a family becomes eligible for the Food Stamp Program, designated members of the family may obtain coupon books on presentation of proper identification. By using stamps low income people get a lot more food without spending any more money than they were previously spending for food.



*With good planning, people who use food stamps can stretch their food dollars (ST-3471-12, right photo, and ST-3444-14).*

## Starting in a new area

It takes some time for residents of an area to get food coupons after the area has been named to enter the Food Stamp Program. Several things must be done first. State officials arrange for a staff to certify applicants and decide where and how coupons will be issued to eligible families. Applicants are interviewed to determine eligibility and how much they must pay toward their food stamp coupons.

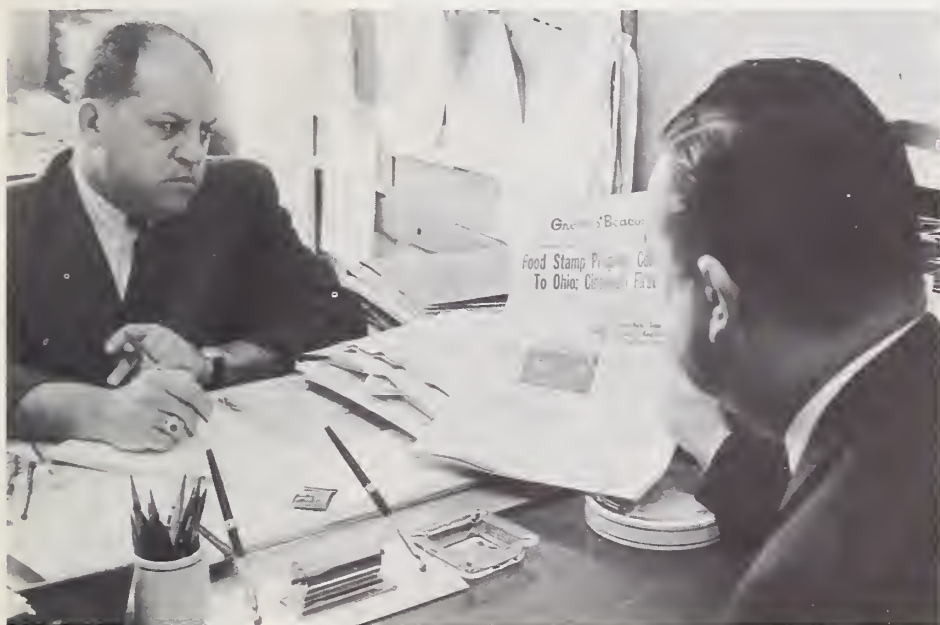
While this is going on, C&MS food stamp employees work with retail and wholesale food merchants, bankers, welfare agents, and others who will be involved in the program to explain their part in the operation.

The community itself prepares for and

works with the new food purchasing medium. Educational informational support among all participating governmental bodies and the general public is obtained.

Home economists and others on the staff of local consumer and nutrition education agencies are enlisted to tell recipients how to buy good food for balanced diets and how to use the coupons economically. Bank and retail food employees learn how to handle coupons.

Though the Food Stamp Program has spread to a number of new areas in recent years, USDA's Commodity Distribution Program still provides food to low income people in areas where there is no Food Stamp Program.



*Information and education play an important role when food coupons move into a new area. A C&MS representative talks with the editor of a grocer publication about the Food Stamp Program. Other information goes out in newspapers and on radio and television (N-55252).*



*Local public welfare department workers are briefed on how the Food Stamp Program works. State officials establish eligibility requirements for low income families who want to participate and establish procedures for certifying families (N-55283).*





*A nutritionist instructs food stamp users about basic foods needed to maintain good health. She tells them how to buy food for balanced diets and how to use the coupons in the most economical way (ST-3387-22).*



*Food stamp "program aides" have been employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Consumer and Marketing Service. They make house to house visits to encourage non-participating families to apply (ST-3976-3).*





N-55613

Most food stores and markets in food stamp areas accept the coupons. Food stamp customers are the same as cash customers. The additional food dollars that flow into the economy of a food stamp area benefit small and large retailers who choose to take part, together with authorized "route" retailers such as dairies, bakeries, and farm produce truckers.

ST-3442-14.



ST-3443-23





ST-3444-4

